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Letter dated 19 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I wish to transmit herewith the statement made by the Troika of the Non-Aligned Movement (South Africa, Malaysia and Cuba) on 19 March 2003 on the developments concerning Iraq (see annex).

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 36 and of the Security Council under "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait".

(*Signed*) **Zainuddin** Yahya
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement by the Troika of the Non-Aligned Movement on the developments concerning Iraq

1. We, the Troika of the Non-Aligned Movement, regret the statement by the President of the United States of America announcing the end of diplomatic efforts and signifying the imminent use of unilateral military force in disarming Iraq.

2. We view the imminent unilateral military action by the US and its allies as an illegitimate act of aggression. Such action, without the support and authorization of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and not in self defense against any armed attack, is clearly in violation of the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

3. We deplore the resort to imminent military action without first exhausting all avenues in the peaceful disarmament of Iraq. We regret that despite confirmation by the UNMOVIC and the IAEA that Iraq was actively cooperating and that inspection was producing results, the inspectors were not given adequate time to fulfill their mandate and now had to be withdrawn. We also regret that the inspectors were not allowed to continue with their work despite the overwhelming calls by the international community including the majority members of the UNSC.

4. We do not agree with the imminent military action when there is no urgent or compelling reason to do so. There should also be no selectivity in enforcing compliance with UNSC resolutions.

5. We underline our grave concern over the inevitable humanitarian and economic catastrophe that would befall the people of Iraq and the region, as well as the threat to regional and international peace and stability resulting from the unilateral military action.

6. We are gravely concerned that the unilateral resort to war is not only in relation to weapons of mass destruction but also to secure regime change, which has never been discussed by the UNSG. Military action to bring about a regime change in Iraq cannot be justified under any circumstances. This is not only in gross violation of the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq but also a contravention of the principles of the UN Charter. We believe that international peace and stability could be preserved with all states adhering to fundamental principles of the non use of force and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and security of all member states of the UN.

7. We appeal to all concerned to exert all efforts to urgently return to peaceful but firm methods in enforcing Iraqi compliance with relevant UNSC resolutions. We will continue to work closely with member countries of NAM on appropriate course of action, including to uphold the centrality and sanctity of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, in addressing issues relating to international peace and stability.

Putrajaya, Malaysia
19 March 2003